DEAD DOVES

and

"DEGENERACY"

A Profiction Zine

WHAT DOES "PROFICTION" ACTUALLY MEAN?

"Profiction" (a subcategory of the "proship" label) is a version of a fandom specific stance of **anti-harassment** based on differences in opinions on shipping.

Shipping: the activity of pairing two characters together in a romantic relationship. A term commonly used in fandom.

The subject of shipping has long been contentious since the beginnings of internet fandom, primarily due to the presence of "anti" ship participants who find it reasonable to exile or in dire scenarios harass other fandom members based on their content preferences.

The origins of the "proship" label are stated by Fanlore.org to originate sometime in 2017. It follows the proliferation of the term "anti-anti shipper" and was coined to be less of a mouthful.

Profiction takes the ideals set by the proship code of conduct and extend them outside of fandom to encompass all forms of fictional content. This means that someone who is profiction refuses to engage in harassment of an author based only on what subject matter is presented in their writing.

"Proship, at its very core, is a combination of four general principles—

1. Ship And Let Ship
2. Your Kink Is Not My Kink And That's Okay
3. Don't Like, Don't Read/Dead Dove: Do Not Eat
4. The Golden Rule - Treat others the way you wish to be treated."

- insomniac-ships on Tumblr as cited by Fanlore, 2022.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

There are a lot of common misconceptions that are willfully spread by people who ignore the reality of what it means to be profiction and/or proship. They tend to morally grandstand against those who oppose their misinformed worldview with the following accusations.

"PROSHIP/FIC PEOPLE ARE ABUSIVE IN THE REAL WORLD"

What you read has no bearing on your actions in the real world in the same way that playing violent video games doesn't make you a violent person. Do you think all fans of the Hunger Games are murderers?

"PROSHIP/FIC PEOPLE EXCLUSIVELY SHIP COUPLES THAT FEATURE TABOO SUBJECT MATTER (EX. INCEST, PEDOPHILIA).

You're thinking of "darkshipping" which isn't a mindset but rather a subgenre of ships that contain taboo content. You can just avoid those and still be proship and/or profiction. Being proship and/or profiction is an ideology.

"PROSHIP/FIC CONTENT IS EQUIVALENT TO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION MATERIAL."

This isn't true. Nobody is being harmed when you read a horror story and a character gets butchered. This remains true regardless of what a fictional character is going through. There is no alternate reality in which a real person is being harmed. There is no exploitation occurring. Characters are objects. Not people.

ANTI-CENSORSHIP AND WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

> Censorship is the suppression of speech, public communication, or other information. This may be done on the basis that such material is considered objectionable, harmful, sensitive, or "inconvenient"
>
> - Wikipedia.

In previous years (prior to 2026 as of writing), censorship is becoming an increasing point of contention in the political landscape and for good reason.

From book bannings to new laws in the United States criminalizing behaviour deemed to be deviant, lawmakers are weaponizing the idea that the public must be protected from harm to cease the spread of information and resources. Especially those that benefit minority groups. The political scapegoating and bans weaponized against transgender people under the guise of “child safety” are a prime example of this.

Now I don’t know about you, but with this in mind I don’t fucking trust my government as far as I can goddamn throw them.

So why in the flying fuck would I want MORE banned books. Less accessible information. Why in the name of Christ Almighty, should she hear my plea, would I as a queer individual ever think it was a good idea to give the government suppressing my peers MORE excuses to ban anything they want.

This is what you are actively advocating for when you say that certain media deserves to be destroyed.

Hitler Youth members burn books. Photograph dated 1938. World History Archive / Alamy Stock Photo

"Nazi leaders sought to control Germany **not only politically, but also culturally**. The regime **restricted the type of art that could be produced**, displayed, and sold. In 1937, Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels made plans to show the public the forms of art that the regime deemed unacceptable. **He organized the confiscation and exhibition of so-called 'degenerate' art.**"

- The Holocaust Encyclopedia

POLITICAL LIES AND CONSERVATIVE DOGWHISTLES

"SAVE THE CHILDREN": Modern dogwhistle feigning concern but ultimately implying that minorities are dangerous. Frequently attributed to QAnon.

"GROOMERS/GROOMING": Frequently utilized to segregate queer adults and children and villainize transgender people in the modern UK especially.

"SEXUAL DEVIANT/ DEGENERATE": A nazi originating and/or alt-right view of queer people/the queer community.

"IN MINECRAFT": Used originally in alt-right circles to ease the blow of the violence they wanted to commit by adding this phrase to the end.

"PARENTS' RIGHTS": The desire to hold absolute control over the influence of children including but not limited to the total isolation from media or people deemed "non-christian" "queer" or "degenerate."

"Pedophilia and incest apologist": An accusation frequently used by the alt-right movement against advocates for queer rights.

LIBRARIES + WHY THEY MATTER

A library isn't just a collection of books. It's an archive of easily accessible resources and information. They assist in language learning, archiving local history, and connect communities.

Limiting the information that is allowed to be held by an archive is a gateway to the outright bans on books that are ongoing in North America to this day.

Archive of our Own is a well-known website dedicated to the archival of fandom specific works of fiction. It has recently been under attack for the content it allows, which is banned on other fandom websites and thus is hosted there instead.

The backlash against AO3 is literally stupid. It's a fucking free to publish to internet library you absolute pearl-clutching dweebs. **This isn't hard you're literally just stubborn.** If AO3 and OTW goes so does fanfiction. It is a non-profit organization fighting to protect you against copyright infringement **so stop fucking shitting in your own living room and then whining about it smelling bad.**

QUEER HISTORY VS CENSORSHIP

This is a link to a Wikipedia article listing all the historical and currently ongoing efforts to censor queer people and our community with the goal to extinguish our presence entirely.

There is no such thing as a benevolent government who will not utilize the ability to censor media against the population. They are doing it right now and if you give your elected officials even a fucking inch thinking that it won't be used for bigoted purposed you are a naïve dumbass. It says gullible on the ceiling.

When you advocate for "more censorship," you are not a queer ally. If you advocate for "more censorship" and are queer yourself, you are a **traitor**.

WHY IT ALL MATTERS (THE PRICE OF PERSONAL COMFORT)

I wouldn't fault anyone who makes the immediate assumption that fandom "shipping discourse" doesn't matter to the broader internet landscape but this is false. Not only have the arguments once only held on forums bled onto large YouTube channels, but they mirror discussions of censorship offline that really matter.

This is an important discussion that affects everyone, not just people in fandom. If the broader public has a shift in the perception of censorship as being a positive phenomenon, we WILL have a fucking problem when the governments of the world take advantage of that conservative swing.

So, stay fucking vigilant because it will affect you, too.

From,

"z0mbinary"

FUCK CENSORSHIP AND PURITY CULTURE

ATTRIBUTION

vectors by freepik on flaticon.com

fanlore.org/pro-shipper

idohistorysometimes.wordpress.com

Sadie L. Trombetta, "7 Reasons why Libraries Matter Now More than Ever"

transformativeworks.org

pnglove.tumblr.com